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081511Z Nov 05

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 VIENNA 003586

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

STATE FOR EUR/ERA - CHASE AND EUR/AGS - VIKMANIS-KELLER

COMMERCE FOR STEVE JACOBS

TREASURY FOR BILL SCHALL

USDA/FAS FOR ROBERTS AND YOUNG

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [ETRD](#) [ECON](#) [EAGR](#) [EU](#) [AU](#)

SUBJECT: WTO -- DEMARCHES TO AUSTRIA ON EUROPEAN

COMMISSION'S OCTOBER 28 AGRICULTURE PROPOSAL

REF: A. (A) STATE 199861

[1](#)B. (B) VIENNA 3442 AND PREVIOUS

This message is SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED. Please handle accordingly.

[1](#)1. (U) Charge d'Affaires presented ref (a) demarche on November 3 to Josef Mayer, the Under Secretary-level Chief of the Austrian Economics M

Progress Across the Board

[1](#)2. (SBU) Mayer and Wutscher both stressed Austria's desire for what Wutscher called a "good result" from the discussions in Hong Kong. They

Sensitive Products, Domestic Support

[1](#)3. (SBU) Concerning sensitive products lines, Wutscher argued that a cut of an average of 46 percent without a broad allowance for sensitive

[1](#)3. (SBU) Wutscher said the EU's position on domestic support and on food aid was part of a broader package on agriculture, which we should cc

"Bottom Line?"

[1](#)4. (SBU) Mayer and Wutscher both argued that we had misread the statement that the EU proposal was the "bottom line." They said this did not

Commission Mandate

[1](#)5. (SBU) Mayer expressed some concern that EU countries could block agreement on the basis of the latest EU proposal. He said that the "only

[1](#)6. (SBU) However, Wutscher said that the Commission already had the mandate to negotiate an agreement at Hong Kong. The commission had found

Next Steps

[1](#)7. (SBU) Mayer and Wutscher said, as Mayer put it, that they "don't see any chance the Commission will come forward with a more far reaching

[1](#)8. (SBU) Mayer urged an approach, which would lower the emotional level and bring the discussions to a more technical level. Similarly, Wuts Phillips